

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

DECLARATION OF NON-ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 17(2)(a), Rules 13ter.1(c) and Rule 39)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5266.01	IMPORTANT DECLARATION		Date of mailing(day/month/year) 21/09/2001
International application No. PCT/US 00/ 15810	International filing date(day/month/year) 09/06/2000	(Earliest) Priority date(day/month/year) 09/06/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		G06F17/60	
Applicant DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS, INC.			

This International Searching Authority hereby declares, according to Article 17(2)(a), that **no international search report will be established** on the international application for the reasons indicated below

1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The subject matter of the international application relates to:
a. <input type="checkbox"/> scientific theories. b. <input type="checkbox"/> mathematical theories c. <input type="checkbox"/> plant varieties. d. <input type="checkbox"/> animal varieties. e. <input type="checkbox"/> essentially biological processes for the production of plants and animals, other than microbiological processes and the products of such processes. f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> schemes, rules or methods of doing business. g. <input type="checkbox"/> schemes, rules or methods of performing purely mental acts. h. <input type="checkbox"/> schemes, rules or methods of playing games. i. <input type="checkbox"/> methods for treatment of the human body by surgery or therapy. j. <input type="checkbox"/> methods for treatment of the animal body by surgery or therapy. k. <input type="checkbox"/> diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body. l. <input type="checkbox"/> mere presentations of information. m. <input type="checkbox"/> computer programs for which this International Searching Authority is not equipped to search prior art.
2. <input type="checkbox"/> The failure of the following parts of the international application to comply with prescribed requirements prevents a meaningful search from being carried out:
<input type="checkbox"/> the description <input type="checkbox"/> the claims <input type="checkbox"/> the drawings
3. <input type="checkbox"/> The failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions prevents a meaningful search from being carried out:
<input type="checkbox"/> the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard. <input type="checkbox"/> the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
4. Further comments:

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Maria Rodriguez Növoa
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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 203

The subject-matter claimed in claims 1-57, 82-126 falls under the provisions of Article 17(2)(a)(i) and Rule 39.1(iii) PCT, such subject-matter relating to a method of doing business.

Claims 58-81 and 127 relate to commonplace technological features for performing the business method of the method claims. Although these claims do not literally belong to the method category, they essentially claim protection for the same commercial effect as the method claims. With reference to the Guidelines, B-VIII, points 1-6, the International Searching Authority considers that searching such commercial features would serve no useful purpose. This applies to the remaining commonplace technological features of these claims as well.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.